



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 8, 2015

DATE: August 19, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Grady Tarbutton, Director - Senior Services
328-2601 – gtarbutton@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Kevin Schiller– Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to retroactively approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] funded by applicable court filing fees, for both fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, ending on June 30, 2017 in support of pro-bono and low-cost consumer related legal services for the elderly, and approve necessary resolution for same. **(All Commission Districts)**

SUMMARY

The Department recommends that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively approve Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] funded by applicable court filing fees, for both fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, ending on June 30, 2017 in support of pro-bono and low-cost consumer related legal services for the elderly, and approve necessary resolution for same.

The Department is requesting the Board of County Commissioners retroactively approve the Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low Cost Legal Services for the Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services due to Washoe Legal Services receiving notice from ADSD that they were the awardee for the FY 2015/2016 grant year.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Achieving Long Term Financial Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

At its regular meeting on June 25, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners authorized the signing of an agreement with Washoe Legal Services to provide low-cost and pro-bono Ward Representation Services for elderly wards with the possibility of a one year renewal, and approved a resolution for the same.

AGENDA ITEM # 5E3

On June 24, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners authorized Amendment #1 to the Agreement with Washoe Legal Service to provide low-cost and pro-bono Ward Representation Services for elderly wards, an approved a resolution for the same.

BACKGROUND

This agenda item, if approved will grant applicable filing fees to Washoe Legal Services to continue providing low cost and pro-bono legal services to elderly wards in Washoe County. This agreement also supports additional funding obtained by Washoe Legal Services from the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Ward Representation Legal Services.

The first two year cycle of this project has been successful, with Washoe Legal Services meeting or exceeding the goals of the grant. This agreement also requires that Washoe Legal Services provide a detailed legal services proposal within 30 calendar days of the date of this Agreement. The proposal will include the type of services to be provided utilizing this grant of court filing fees, common standards for quality and performance, level and type of staff, measurable objectives, amount of funding for each service type, and other information necessary to evaluate the proposal

The agreement includes County funding and oversight, to ensure that Washoe Legal Services continues to provide quality legal services to the seniors of Washoe County. Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division has selected Washoe Legal Services to provide Ward Representation Legal Services for elderly wards in Washoe County, which are authorized under its *State Plan for Aging*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department will annually provide up to \$65,000 to fund this grant for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) from applicable court filing fees, for elderly legal services received by the County pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes. The actual amount of available funds from the Senior Services Fund will be reviewed annually as part of the budget allocation process, and adjustments in the level of support will be made as appropriate.

Support will be administered through a contract between the County and the selected provider. Revenues and expenditures will be accounted for in C250411 Legal Local.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners retroactively approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] funded by applicable court filing fees, for both fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, ending on June 30, 2017 in support of pro-bono and low-cost consumer related legal services for the elderly, and approve necessary resolution for same.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be "move to retroactively approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] funded by applicable court filing fees, for both fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017, ending on June 30, 2017 in support of pro-bono and low-cost consumer related legal services for the elderly, and approve necessary resolution for same.."